



10c

JUNE
NO. 132

ACTION COMICS

GREAT GUNS! A
GIRL, FIGHTING IT—SH—
MUST BE AN TELEVISION!

LOOK AGAIN,
SUPERMAN! IT'S
ME—SUPERGIRL!
AND I HAVE ALL
YOUR POWERS!

Don't miss this
2-PAGE
SUPERGIRL
FROM
KRYPTON!
Is She Friend or Foe?

PLUS:
SUPERMAN
MEETS
ANTARCTA!



DEAL FOR YOU



ACTION COMICS

GREAT GUNS! A
GIRL, AROUND? IT COULD
MUST BE AN ALLIANCE!

LOOK AGAIN,
SUPERMAN! IT'S
ME - SUPERGIRL!
AND I HAVE ALL
YOUR POWERS!

Don't Miss the
New
SUPERGIRL
FIGHTS
KRYPTON!
Is She Friend or Foe?

THE NEW
SUPERMAN
WRITS
STORIES

SUPERMAN

THROUGH THE YEARS YOU HAVE SEEN SUPERMAN LOCKED IN TITANIC BATTLES WITH THE MOST BIZARRE VILLAINS IN HISTORY! BUT NOW HE MEETS HIS NEWEST FOE... THE MOST INCREDIBLE AND DANGEROUS OF THEM ALL...

THE MENACE OF METALLO!

GOOD HEAVENS,
JOHN! THOSE BULLETS
BOUNCED OFF YOUR
BODY! NOW I KNOW
YOU'RE **SUPERMAN**,
THE MAN I LOVE!

WOOF! AM I ON THE SPOT!
IF **SUPERMAN** AND I EVER
SHOW UP AT THE SAME
TIME, SHE'LL KNOW I'M
NOT THE **MAN OF STEEL**--
BUT **METALLO**, THE
METAL MAN!



ONE SUMMER NIGHT, OUTSIDE METROPOLIS, AS JOHN COBBIN, REPORTER, TUNES IN ON A POPULAR RADIO SHOW, **CRIME FILE...**



YOU'RE THROUGH, PRESTON! ONCE AGAIN, A CRIMINAL MUST LEAVE... THERE IS NO PERFECT CRIME.

BUNK! I COMMITTED THE PERFECT CRIME!



YOU MADE ONE MISTAKE, PRESTON! YOU FORGOT TO Wipe THE FINGER-PRINTS OFF THE MURDER GUN!

THE KILLER IN THAT RADIO SHOW FORGOT BUT NOT I! I WIPED ANY PRINTS OFF, LEAVING THE SUN IN THE DEAD MAN'S HANDS, TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE SUICIDE!



I KILLED THE ONLY MAN WHO DISCOVERED I WAS A THIEF AND EMBEZZLER! BUT NO-BODY'LL SUSPECT IF HIS MURDER! THE LAW WON'T COME LOOKING FOR ME OR ANYBODY! THAT'S WHY I CALL A PERFECT CRIME!



BUT SUDDENLY, AS THE CAR CAREENS AROUND A CURVE...

BAMMM! **KREEEEEE**



PRESENTLY, AS AN OLD CAR PURNS AROUND THE BEND...

W-WH MEAVENS, PROFESSOR! THAT CAR SPOGGED OFF THE ROAD AND OVERTURNED! THE DRIVER IS PINNED UNDERNEATH!

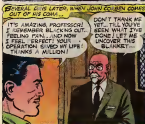
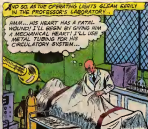
S-STOP THE CAR, BOTH! WE MUST HELP HIM!



SHORTLY AFTER...

W-HE'S BADLY INJURED! WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE HIM TO THE LOCAL HOSPITAL!

NO, BOTH! HE WON'T LAST THAT LONG! HIS ONLY CHANCE IS IF I OPERATE ON HIM AT ONCE! HELP ME CARRY HIM TO THE CAR!





CORBEN, YOU'RE A-ER-
MACHINE NOW! A MACHINE
MUST BE POWERED! HERE'S
WHAT POWERS YOUR MECHANICAL
HEART—THIS CAPSULE OF
UL-NUH! I'VE JUST REMOVED
FROM YOUR CHEST!

WHAT DID YOU
DO TO ME? I
NOW I-I
FEEL WEAK!
DIZZY!



SEE—I REFURN THE
CAPSULE, AND YOUR FATAL
WEAKNESS VANISHES! NOW
REMEMBER!—EACH CAPSULE
LASTS ONLY A DAY! IT MUST
BE REPLACED BY FRESH
UL-NUH DAILY, OR YOU
WILL DIE!

BUT YOU SAID
THERE WAS A
SECOND
SOURCE OF
POWER THAT
COULD ENERGIZE
ME!



YES! THAT
SECOND SUBSTANCE
IS...

O-GOOD HEAVENS,
PROFESSOR! LOOK
OUTSIDE!

CRASH!!!



THAT LIGHTNING BOLT
AND THE DAY-LONG
STORM HAS STARTED
A ROCK-SLIDE! WE'RE
RIGHT IN ITS PATH!



*MINUTES LATER, AS THE SLIDE SMASHES THE
FOUNDATIONS OF THE BUILDING...*

T-THE ROCKS ARE PILED
UP AGAINST THE HOUSE!
WE'RE TRAPPED! PROFESSOR!

C-CORBEN!
HELP! I...
GNNNNN...



*AS CORBEN BENDS OVER THE STRICKEN
SCIENTIST...*

WE'VE HAD A **STROKE!**
MY FEAR OF THE AVALANCHE
WAS TOO MUCH FOR HIM!
I'LL PUT SOME CLOTHES
ON AND LOOK FOR HELP!
MAYBE THE SIDE DOOR
ISN'T BLOCKED!

PRESENTLY, AS CORBEN TRIES THE DOOR...

THE DOOR-I-T'S COME AWAY IN MY HAND...RIPPED RIGHT OFF THE HINGES! WHY, I-I'VE GOT **SUPER-STRENGTH** IN THESE METAL HANDS!

RRRIIPP!



WITH SUDDEN INSPIRATION, CORBEN DECIDES HE' PUT INTO THE WALL OF ROCK...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I-I'M SLICING THROUGH THE ROCK BARBER WITH MY ROBOT BODY! MY METALLIC STRENGTH IS **LIMITLESS!**



TO BLAME WITH THE PROFESSOR! LET HIS HOUSEKEEPER FIND HIM AND TAKE CARE OF HIM! I ONLY REGRET I COULDN'T LEARN WHAT THE **SECOND** EMERGING ELEMENT IS!

THE FOLLOWING DAY, IN METROPOLIS AS JOHN CORBEN APPLIES TO EDITOR PERRY WHITE FOR A JOB ON THE DAILY PLANET...

I CAN USE A GOOD REPORTER, CORBEN, SO I CHECKED YOUR REFERENCES! THE EDITOR OF THE **EASTPORT NEWS** RECOMMENDS YOU HIGHLY! COME MEET THE GANG!



AS PERRY INTRODUCES LOIS LANE AND CLARK KENT...

PLEASD TO MEET YOU, MR. KENT!

?!?!?!?



O-G-DOLLY... WHAT A GRIP! HE'S GOT A HAND OF **IRON!**

I HAD TO PRETEND HIS STRONG GRIP HURT ME, OR WHO GUSS? I'M **SUPERMAN!**

GREAT! THEN CORBEN CAN TACKLE THOSE TOUGHEN ASSIGNMENTS YOU'RE TOO THIN TO HANDLE, CLARK! SHOW CORBEN HIS DESK, LOIS!



AS LONK OBSERVES...

I GO FOR YOU, BABY!
YOU'RE A CUTE NUMBER!
NOW ABOUT LUNCH?

SORRY! I'M NOT HUNGRY!
NOW REMOVE THAT GASP
OF RON! I DON'T LIKE IT
ANY MORE THAN CLARK
DID!



**SHORTLY AFTER, AS GORDON GETS HIS FIRST
ASSIGNMENT AND DUCKS INTO AN EMPTY
OFFICE ON HIS WAY OUT...**

I-I FEEL WEAK...
AND NO WONDER! MY SUPPLY
OF URBANISM USED UP! THE
PROFESSOR GAVE ME JUST
THIS ONE EXTRA CAPSULE!
ENOUGH TO KEEP MY METALLIC
HEART BEATING TILL TOMORROW!
I NEED MORE URBANISM--
REAL FAST!



**MEANWHILE, AS THE PLANET STAFF CLUSTERS AROUND
A TELETYPE...**

THE ATOMIC
SUBMARSING NEPTUNE IS IN
DISTRESS! IT'S TRYING TO SET A
NEW RECORD FOR STAYING
SUBMERGED! BUT WITH ONLY
THREE DAYS TO GO, ITS AIR
SYSTEM BROKE DOWN!

THERE'S A JOB FOR
SUPERMAN!
I'LL BREAK INTO
THE STOCKROOM
AND CHANGE!



**MOMENTS LATER, THE CITY REPORTER
BECOMES SUPERMAN, MAN OF
STEEL! WITH ONE SQUEEZE OF HIS
MIGHTY FINGERS, HE COMPRESSED CLARK
KENT'S RESILIENT CLOTHING AND SPECIAL
FIBER SHROUDED INTO A
CONTACT BALL!**



**THE NEXT MOMENT, SUPERMAN THROWS
HE COMPRESSED CLARK KENT CLOTHES INTO
A SECRET POUCH IN THE LINING OF HIS COAT.**



I'VE GOT TO REPLENISH THAT SUB'S
AIR SUPPLY BEFORE IT'S FORCED TO
SURFACE! I MUST GIVE
THE CREW ENOUGH
OXYGEN SO THEY CAN
STAY UNDERWATER LONG
ENOUGH TO SET A NEW
RECORD!

**SECONDS LATER, AS SUPERMAN STRIKES OVER THE
ARCTIC SEA, HIS TELESCOPIC VISION PICKS UP THE
SUBMERGED NEPTUNE...**



JUST BEFORE I PLUNGE TO THE
SUB'S DEPTH, I'LL INHALE DEEPLY
AND FILL MY LUNGS WITH FRESH
AIR!

DIVING TO THE SURFACER'S SIDE...

I'LL EXHAUST MYSELF, SO AS NOT TO BLOW THE SUB AWAY... AND BREATHE ENOUGH OXYGEN INTO THE TAPPED HATCH TO TAKE CARE OF 100 MEN FOR SIX DAYS!



INSIDE THE NEPTUNE, AS THE SEA-K LIVES ARE ORDERED TO RESCUE THE COMPREHENSIVE AIR FROM SUPERMAN'S MANTLE LUNGS TO CIRCULATE THROUGH THE VESSEL...

AIR! WE CAN BREATHE AGAIN, THANKS TO SUPERMAN! AND WE DON'T HAVE TO SURFACE! WE CAN GO ON TO BREAK THE SUBMERGED SUB RECORD!



MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE AN ATOMIC RESEARCH LABORATORY, ANOTHER "MAN OF STEEL" GOES ABOUT A DIFFERENT KIND OF BREAND...

THERE'S NO POLITE, LEGAL WAY I CAN GET THE URANIUM I NEED! I CAN'T PURCHASE IT OR MINE IT MYSELF! I CAN ONLY STEAL IT!

METROPOLIS RESEARCH LABORATORY



AS CORBEN BATTERS HIS WAY THROUGH A VAULT DOOR...

ONLY A SMALL SUPPLY LEFT! I'LL NEED MORE! I CAN'T KEEP WORKING FROM DAY TO DAY WHEN MY NEXT URANIUM CAPSULE WILL COME FROM!



I MUST STOCKPILE THIS STUFF!—AND DO IT BEFORE THEY TRUST ALERTS ALL HOLDERS OF URANIUM TO TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTIONS TO SUPERVISE THEIR SUPPLIES!



FOR THE REST OF THAT DAY CORBEN ENGAGES ON A SERIES OF HUNT-SPOT JOGGS...

HOSPITAL

SCIENCE INSTITUTE

U.S. ARMY PROJECT X-4 KEEP OUT

NOTHING STOPP! NOTHING!

EVEN IF THEY TRIED TO SHOOT ME, THE BULLETS'D BOUNCE OFF MY METALLIC BODY LIKE GREEN PEARL!

I CAN DO WHATEVER I WANT! I'M INVINCIBLE!



THE FOLLOWING DAY, A BOLD NEW NAME IS INTRODUCED TO AMERICA... METALLO, THE METAL MAN!

LAB TESTS PROVE THAT NO HUMAN BEING COULD BE COMMITTED THESE CRIMES!... ONLY AN INDestructIBLE ROBOT MADE OF PURE METAL! THE LIES NOW CONVINCE METALLO, THE METAL MAN... PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE!



THAT AFTERNOON, AT THE PLANET OFFICE...

NOW FOR YOUR HOURLY NEWS! SCREEN STAR MERRY BLAIR IS ABOUT TO GO OVER NIAGARA FALLS IN A BARREL! HER PUBLICITY ANGEL IS THAT SHE EXPECTS SUPERMAN TO RESCUE HER IN CASE OF DANGER!

ON--DOES SHE? I'LL TEACH MRS. BLAIR A LESSON!



I NEED A PRETEXT TO SNEAK OUT AND SWITCH TO SUPERMAN!

WANT A SOUTER YOU ARE, CLARK! I ATE THE SAME PICKLES AND THEY DIDN'T BOTHER ME A BIT!

GOO! THESE S-SOUR PICKLES I ATE FOR LUNCH! THEY'VE GIVEN ME A STOMACH-ACHE! I'D BETTER GO HOME AND GET TO BED!



MY STOMACH MUST BE MORE DELICATE THAN YOURS, LOIS!

I HOPE LOIS IS CAREFUL WHILE I'M GONE! SHE'S BEEN DRAGGING UP FACTS TO EXPOSE A DESPERATE SCAM OF CORRUPTION... AND THEY WERE ABOUT TO KILL DOCTOR TO COLONIZE HER--WITH A BULLET!



PRESENTLY, AS CLARK CHANGES TO SUPERMAN AND REACHES NIAGARA FALLS...

I ARRIVED IN TIME! THE BARREL'S GOING OVER THE BRINK! I MUST RESCUE THE PUBLICITY-DRINKING FOOL IN SUCH A WAY THAT NOBODY WILL KNOW I DID IT!



I'LL SWIM UP THE FALLS LIKE A SALMON... BARRIER WATER! THE CHANCE MIST WILL PREVENT ANYONE FROM SEEING ME PUSH THE BARREL UPWARDS!



**SHORTLY AFTER, AS SUPERMAN DIPS UP-
STREAM TO A DESIRED SPOT...**

I'LL LEAVE THE BARRIL HERE!
SHE'LL NEVER KNOW I ACTUALLY
DID SAVE HER! ...AND BECAUSE
HER STUNT FAILED OTHERS
WOULDN'T TRY TO WIN PUBLICITY
BY TRICKING ME INTO SAYING
THEM!



**LATER, AS THE GIRL EMERGES FROM THE BARREL,
SUPERMAN LEFT HASTILY CRACED OPEN.**

SOME LUCKY ROCK MUST'VE
DEFLECTED THE BARRIL TOWARD
THE SHORE! SINCE SUPERMAN
NEVER SHOWED UP I'D HAVE BEEN
KILLED IF I WENT OVER THE FALLS!
I'LL NEVER PULL THIS STUNT AGAIN!

GOOD! SHE'S
LEARNED
HER
LESSON!



AT THE SAME TIME, AS LOIS LANE GOES FOR LUNCH.

HA! THERE'S THE
GIRL WHO'S BEEN
EXPLODING CAR BODIES IN
THE PLANET! GET
HER!

WAIT UP LOIS! LET'S
HAVE LUNCH
TOGETHER!



OH-GOOD HEAVENS! THAT GANG TRIED
TO KILL ME! BUT ALL THE BULLETS
BOUNCED OFF CORBEN'S CHEST! HE'S
UNHARMED!... GOOD GRACKS!
CORBEN MUST BE SUPERMAN'S
SECRET IDENTITY!



DON'T BOTHER TO
COVER UP THE BULLET-
HOLES IN YOUR SUIT,
DARLING! YOU'RE
SUPERMAN, THE
GUY I LOVE! AND
STUPID ME... I WAS
BRUSHING YOU OFF!
I'LL MAKE IT UP TO
YOU FROM NOW ON.

NOW! AM I ON THE
SPOT? IF SUPERMAN
AND I EVER SHOW UP
AT THE SAME TIME,
SHE'LL KNOW I'M
A FRAUD!



SHORTLY AFTER, IN A CHINESE RESTAURANT...

NOW FOR THE NEWS! TO
STOP METALLO'S RAIDS,
ALL LOCAL SUPPLIES OF
URANIUM WILL HEREAFTER
BE STORED IN HEAVILY-
GUARDED FORT TOWN!

LOOK, DARLING!
I JUST OPENED
A FORTUNE
COOKING!



HERE'S WHAT IT SAYS!
"MISTERS FAIN'T HEARTY
NOR FALSE HEART E'ER
WON A FAIR LAD!"

YES...YES...THAT'S
WONDERFUL, LAD!

FORT TANNER, EN? HAH!
I'LL CARRY THE SUPERMAN
IMPERSONATION A STEP FURTHER!
WITH MY MIMICRY TRAINED ON
I COULD PASS AS SUPERMAN'S
THINK!

THAT AFTERNOON, A CRAFTY METALLO, DRESSED
IN AN IMITATION SUPERMAN COSTUME, EN-
BARKS ON A BOLD COLD...

TOO BAD THIS SUPERMAN CAN'T FLY!
BUT THAT WON'T STOP ME, METALLO.
FROM CHASING FORT TANNER! THEY'LL ROLL
OUT THE CARPET FOR SUPERMAN!
AND...I'LL ROLL OUT WITH THE DEERHORN!

PRESENTLY, AT FORT TANNER...

HELLO, SUPERMAN!
WHAT BUSINESS YOU
HERE?

THE FOOLS! THEY
DON'T REALIZE I
USED HANDED AND A
SUPERMAN COSTUME!
LOL!

I THOUGHT I'D HANG AROUND IN
CASE METALLO SHOWED UP! HAH...
I NOTICE YOUR TRUCK FELL OFF THE
LIFT! I'LL HELP YOU!

GOLLY...
THANKS,
SUPERMAN!

MY FEAT OF SUPER-STRENGTH
CONVINCED YOU I'M SUPER-
MAN!

I MUST CONTACT MY YOUNG
FRIEND, JIMMY OLSEN!...
AND IF I USE A PRIVATE
PHONE KIOSK?

BUT ONCE METALLO IS ALONE, HE FINDS THE
DEERHORN WARE AND...

CRASHHHH
NOW I'LL HAVE ENOUGH DEERHORN
FOR A YEAR! OF COURSE, THEY'LL
SOON REALIZE THE SUPERMAN
COSTUME WAS A DISGUISE FOR
METALLO!

AFTER METALLO EXITS AND REACHES HIS CAR...

SAY...! THAT LOOKS LIKE THE REAL SUPERMAN!
HE MUST'VE SPOTTED ME WITH HIS TELESCOPIC
VISION! HE'S COMING DOWN! I'LL STOP
HIM WITH THIS BROKEN DEER!

BUT AS THE ALARM DEER SHATTERS AGAINST ITS INVULNERABLE TARGET...

I'M GLAD I DECIDED TO CHECK ON FORT TABOR ON MY WAY BACK FROM NINGARA FALLS! THAT'S ALL FALLO, ALL RIGHT! I'LL USE MY SUPER-BREATH TO BLOW THE URBAN OUT OF HIS CAR!



AS ANOTHER BLAST OF THE MAN OF STEEL'S SUPER-BREATH BLOWS METALLO'S CAR CLEAN INTO THE MID OF A STATE POLICE STATION.

MMH... I'LL HAVE TO COLLAR METALLO LATER! I JUST SPOTTED A CIVIL EMERGENCY AT THE WORLD-WIDE SPECTOR'S EXHIBITION!



NOW! SUPERMAN'S CARRYING THE WORLD ON HIS SHOULDERS! IT'S A TRUE PICTURE OF HIS GREAT SERVICE TO HUMANITY!



A SPLIT SECOND LATER...

HELP! THE ROSE SHAPED! THE HUGE MARBLE WORLD THAT'S SUPPOSED TO FIT ON ATLAS' SHOULDERS IS FALLING!

MMH... ATLAS WINKS A STAND-IN!



BUT SUPERMAN'S BRIEF ABSENCE ALLOWS METALLO TO ESCAPE! AND, AN HOUR LATER, IN THE UNSUSPECTING PROFESSOR SALE'S LABORATORY...

GOOD! YOU'VE RECOVERED FROM YOUR STROKE! LOOK, PROFESSOR-- I CAN'T GET ANY URANIUM! WHAT WAS THAT SECOND SUBSTANCE I CAN USE? YOU COLLAPSED BEFORE YOU COULD TELL ME!

K-KRYPTONITE! ITS ENERGY WILL LAST YOU FOREVER! I HAVE A SAMPLE IN THAT SAFE!





I'D INTENDED TO EXPERIMENT WITH IT... TO FIND AN ANTIDOTE FOR ITS EFFECT AGAINST SUPERMAN! BUT SINCE YOUR LIFE'S AT STAKE, YOU NEED IT NOW!

KRYPTONITE! THE ONE ELEMENT THAT CAN KILL SUPERMAN! I'LL DESTROY HIM BEFORE HE GETS ON MY TRAIL AGAIN! THE PROFESSOR DOESN'T KNOW I'M METALLO, SO HE'LL RESPECT NOTHING!

CRASH!



THAT NIGHT IN A BASEMENT ROOM BELOW THE METROPOLIS EXHIBIT HALL, METALLO, DISGUISED AS SUPERMAN, CAREFULLY LAYS HIS PLANS.

SUPERMAN IS PREPARING A BIG SURPRISE SHOW FOR CHARITY! HE'LL BE HERE ANY SECOND TO ARRANGE HIS TROPHIES! HE'LL FEEL THE EFFECTS OF THIS PIECE OF KRYPTONITE THE MOMENT HE ENTERS!

GIANT KEY TO SUPERMAN'S FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE AT NORTH POLE.

PURPLE DIAMOND

ON SUPERMAN'S JOURNAL, FIVE MINUTES LATER...

K-KRYPTONITE! ITS WICKED BETWEEN THOSE PIECES! MY POWERS ARE FADING... I FEEL WEAK...

BUT YOU CAN'T REACH THE KRYPTONITE, SUPERMAN! EVERY STEP YOU TAKE TOWARD IT WILL BE TORTURE! YOU'RE FINISHED!



FOUR TROPHIES BOMB SAMPLE OF KRYPTONITE

INTELLIGENCE CLOCK

MINUTES GO BY AGONIZINGLY, AS THE KRYPTONITE RAYS MERCILESSLY BOMBARD SUPERMAN!

I CAN'T BLOW IT AWAY! MY BREATH IS NOT STRONG ENOUGH! I-I CAN'T DISLODGE IT!

SINCE MY KRYPTONITE IS DESTROYING SUPERMAN, I'LL MAKE USE OF HIS SAMPLE!



I'LL PUT SUPERMAN'S KRYPTONITE INSIDE MY MECHANICAL HEART... AND HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY TO LIVE FOREVER! NOW I'LL DROP IN ON LOIS LANE!



BUT WHEN METALLO LEAVES, SUPERMAN HAS ONE FINAL IDEA...

I-I-I'VE TRIED CONCENTRATING MY K-RAY VISION ON KRYPTONITE BEFORE... TO NO AVAIL! BUT ANYWAY I DIDN'T CONCENTRATE LONG ENOUGH! I GAVE UP AFTER A MINUTE OR TWO! NOW I'LL KEEP CONCENTRATING TILL I DROP!



SIX AGONIZING MINUTES LATER...

I-I-I'VE DONE IT! FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY CAREER, I'VE FOUND A WAY TO CONQUER KRYPTONITE! I'VE METALLO! NOW I CAN GO AFTER METALLO! MY TELESCOPIC VISION WILL LOCATE HIM AS SOON AS MY FULL POWERS RETURN!





AT THAT MOMENT, IN LOIS LANE'S APARTMENT, AS METELLO ENTERS, STILL DISGUISED AS SUPERMAN...

T-THAT METAL BODY? Y-YOU MUST BE...

TOO BAD YOUR DOOR-KNOB KIPPED MY DART! NOW YOU KNOW I'M METELLO! I MUST GET RID OF YOU LIKE I GOT RID OF SUPERMAN!



BUT SUDDENLY AS METELLO MOVES FORWARD, HE EMITS A CHOKED CRY AND TOPPLES OVER...

U-HE'S DEAD! HE MUST HAVE HAD A HEART ATTACK!

THANK GOODNESS I GOT HERE IN TIME!

HE BROUGHT IT ON HIMSELF! LOIS! HE EXCHANGED HIS KRYPTONITE FOR A MORE NOT REALIZING I WAS USING A FAKE, PROP KRYPTONITE, COLORED GREEN FOR A COLOR PICTURE IN A WEEKLY MAGAZINE!



APPARENTLY, KRYPTONITE POWERED THE MECHANICAL HEART IN HIS METAL CHEST! THIS GREEN-COLORED ROCK GAVE HIM NOTHING BUT... HEART FAILURE!

NOW DON'T! NO THAT FORTUNE TELLING ROCKS PROPHECY CAN'T TRULY SAY! MYSELF JUST ABOUT FOR FALSE HEART! I'VE WON A JOB, HAD!



LATER, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

WE WERE GOING TO ARREST CORDEN TOMORROW! HE MADE ONE MISTAKE, SUPERMAN! WE'D WIPE THE GUN CLEAN, BUT NOT THE CARTRIDGES HE LOADED THE GUN WITH! THAT'S CORDEN'S PRINT ON AN UNFIRE CARTRIDGE! IF CORDEN THOUGHT WE'D COMMITTED THE PERFECT CRIME...

...I KNOW, INSPECTOR! HE WAS DEAD WRONG!

SILVER AGE FUN FACTS

TO KNOW AND TELL!

The silver age saw its share of production wizardry thanks to the efforts of Sol Harrison and Jack Adler. Covers done in a gray wash were eye-catching, as were covers which combined photographs with artwork.

Silver Age Fun Facts compiled by Bob Rozakis

CONGORILLA

USUALLY THE ONLY "WAR" A GORILLA FIGHTS IS THE WAR OF SURVIVAL AGAINST HOSTILE HUNTERS! NEVER DOES HE TAKE THE SIDE OF A MAN, HIS CHIEF ENEMY! BUT JUST AS CONGORILLA IS NO ORDINARY GORILLA, THE WAR HE FIGHTS ARE NO ORDINARY WARS! TAKE THE AMAZING MAN-APES FANTASTIC STRUGGLE ONE TIME AGAINST A SMALL ARMY OF DESPERATE MEN WHO HAVE DECIDED THAT...

"CONGO BILL DIES AT DAWN!"



THAT GOLDEN GORILLA MUST HAVE NINE LIVES! WE CAN'T SEEM TO HIT HIM!

I MUST GET INSIDE THE FORT AND RESCUE MY CONGO BILL BODY BEFORE THOSE FOREIGN LEGION BUTTHEERS DESTROY IT!

AS CONGO BILL LEADS A CARAVAN INTO THE DESERT...



THANKS FOR BEING OUR GUIDE, CONGO BILL! WITH YOU LEADING US, WE'LL SURELY FIND THE "BURIAL AT EL BASHIR!"

WE WON'T GET FAR, OR RETURN, UNLESS WE REPLENISH OUR WATER SUPPLY! OUR FIRST STOP IS THE OASIS AT FORT DEWILLY!

PRESENTLY AT THE WATER HOLE...



THAT'S VERY STRANGE, CONGO BILL! NOBODY HAS COME OUT OF THE FORT TO GREET US!

YES! THE OASIS IS COMPLETELY DESERTED! I'LL SEE THE COMMANDANT OF THE FORT AND FIND OUT WHAT'S WRONG!

BUT AS CONGO BILL MOVES TOWARD THE FORT...



IS THAT... MY MY HEAD... WHIRLING AROUND MY LEGS... ARE SO LEGS! I...

I'M DIZZY! I CAN'T STAND UP!

SHHH...

SUDDENLY AS EVERY MEMBER OF THE CARAVAN COLLAPSES IN A HEAP A STRANGE GLANCE FALLS ON THE OASIS...



THEN CONGO BILL COMES TO, HE'S AT THE RIGHT OBJECTS HIM!



W-WHERE AM I? W-WHERE'S EVERYBODY?

THEY'RE AT THE OTHER END OF THE FORT, LOCKED UP IN DUNGEONS WITH THE COMMANDANT AND THE OTHER OFFICERS! THE COMMANDANT MUTILATED HIS MORNINGS! THE FORT'S GONE... AND YOU'RE OUR FIRST VICTIMS!



WE'RE GOING TO TURN THE OASIS INTO A TOURIST TRAP SO WE CAN RAID ALL PASSING CARAVANS! WE DELUGED THE WATERHOLE! THAT'S WHY YOU PASSED OUT! AT DAWN WE'RE GOING TO EXECUTE EVERYBODY! DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES!



YOU'RE THE BRAIN OF THE CARAVAN, CONGO BILL, SO WE ISOLATED YOU FROM THE OTHER PRISONERS! BUT ALL YOUR BRAINS WON'T HELP YOU ESCAPE A FIRM SQUAD! AND NOW... PLEASANT DREAMS!

IF A SITUATION EVER CALLED FOR CONGO-BILLA, THIS IS IT! I ONLY WISH THE GOLDEN AGE DIDN'T GO FAR AWAY!



HASTILY RUBBING THE MAGIC RING ONCE AGAIN TO HIM BY A FORTUNE TELLER DOCTOR, THE WHITE UP ADVENTURER UNDERGOES A FANTASTIC CHANGE...



IN A FEW SECONDS ANY MIND WILL INHABIT THE BODY OF THE GODDAMN GORILLA... NAME: THE GORILLA'S BRAIN WILL OCCUPY MY BODY!

THE MAGIC SPELL'S WORKING! EVERYTHING'S TWIRLING AROUND...

IN A FEW SECONDS CONGO BILL'S BRAIN WILL TAKE POSSESSION OF MY GORILLA BODY!



INSTANTLY LATER, AS CONGO BILL'S MIND ENTERS THE APE'S BODY AND TRANSFORMS THE HUGE BEAST INTO CONGOBILL, THE AMAZING MAN-APE!

WHAT LUCK! THE GORILLA WAS WANDERING NEAR THE FRINGE OF THE DESERT! I'LL REACH THE PORT WHERE MY CONGO BILL BODY IS HELD PRISONER IN A HALF HOUR!



MEANWHILE, AT PORT DEVALE, AS THE JUNGLE EXPLORER'S GORILLA MIND RAVAGES AT THE RAPID CHANGE IN SURROUNDINGS!

SERGEANT HALLIDAY LOOK AT E-CONGO BILL! HIS MIND'S SHAPED! HE'S ACTING LIKE A WILD MAN!

YES! THE SHOCK OF BEING CAPTURED MUST'VE MADE HIM GO MAD! HE'S ACTING LIKE A FEROCIOUS APE! THIS IS A SIGHT TO REMEMBER!



SOON AFTER, AT THE OASIS...

THE VICTURES! THEY'RE STARTING TO LOOT OUR SUPPLIES! I'LL FIX 'EM!

GRRR!

NOW DUN NOOM! A GORILLA ATTACKS US, RUN! RUN!

BANG!



AS THE FRIGHTENED SOLDIERS REACH THE PORT...

YOU FOOLS! WHO ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY FROM? A BUMB GORILLA? WE'VE GOT RIFLES AND BARBUDOOLS! WE'LL BLAST THE BEAST AT POINT-BLANK RANGE! COME ON!

I'M DONE FOR UNLESS I IMPROVISE MY OWN SHELL FIRE!



COCONUT SHELL FIRE!

LOOK! THE APE IS BENDING A TREE! WHOOPS! HE HAS THE STRENGTH OF A HERCULES!

BANG!

BANG!

BANG!



NOW I'LL RELEASE THE TREE SUDDENLY...

THAT STUPID APE'S THROWING A BARBAGE OF COCONUTS AT US! HIT THE GROUND!





AT THE SAME TIME, IN THE DUNGEON AT THE FORT...



PRESENTLY, AN THE ROAR OF A POWERFUL MOTORCYCLE
SOUNDS ABOVE THE BABOOKA FIRE...



THEY'RE FIRING AT THAT MOTORCYCLE
DRIVER... SO HE MUST BE AN *ENEMY*
OF THE MUTINEERS! BUT HE DOESN'T
REALIZE THE BRIDGE IS DOWN!



MOMENTS LATER, BEFORE THE ASTONISHED
CORPORAL UNDERSTANDS WHAT IS HAPPENING...



ABRUPTLY AS THE DRAGED MUTHERS CON-
VERGE ON CONGOBILLA WITH RENEWED FURY...

"THAT MISCHIEF-
MAKING APE IS
RUINING OUR
PLANS! GET HIM!
DESTROY
HIM!"



"I'M CAUGHT BETWEEN
TWO FIRES! ITS NOW
OR NEVER! I'VE GOT
TO SCALE THAT WALL
OR EVERYONE, INCLUDING
MY CONGO BILL BODY,
WILL BE SHOT AT
SUNRISE."

AS THE 250-2 GOING APE SPES SOME OPENED
BARRELS OF TAR AND BITCH...

BANG!



"THEY MUST'VE BEEN USING THIS
STUFF TO REPAIR THE MASONRY!
I'LL USE IT TO REPAIR
THE SPOT
I'M IN!"

BANG!

"LOOK OUT! HE'S
H-HEAVING THOSE
BARRELS!"



"WH! HE'S SLAMMED OUR
ARMORING GUNS WITH
THAT TAR! NOW THE
APE CAN SCALE THE
WALL...AND WE CAN'T
STOP HIM!"

"WHO SAYS WE CAN'T!
THERE ARE TOMMY-
GUNS IN THE
ARSENAL! GO GET
'EM! WE'LL DROP
HIM WHEN HE REACH-
ES THE ROOF!"



AS THE AGILE GORILLA REACHES THE PARAPET...

"NOW WE'VE GOT
HIM! CLOSE IN!"



"HMM...! OUT OF THE
FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE!
I'VE GOT TO LAY MY
HANDS ON FRESH
AMMUNITION... HMM... I'VE
GOT AN IDEA!"

"I HAVEN'T BOWLED IN A
LONG TIME... AND NEVER
WITH CANNON BALLS!
BUT THE GAME OF TEN
PINS USED TO BE
RIGHT UP MY ALLEY!"

"LOSER! THAT APE
IS A GENIUS! FOR
EVERY JAM HE
GETS INTO, HE MAKES
A SPLIT-SECOND
DECISION THAT
TAKES HIM OUT
OF IT!"





SHORTLY AFTER, IN A SECLUDED PART OF THE CASTLE, AS THE HUGE BEAST RUBS THE MAGIC RING ON HIS MUSCULAR FINGER...



LATER, AS THE RAUDEMERS ARE ROUNDED UP...



SILVER AGE FUN FACTS

TO KNOW AND TELL!

• The end of the 10¢ cover price in 1962 ended 27+ years of holding a price let the expense of page-counts, obviously! The increase to 12¢ represented a 20% price rise.

• The change to 15¢ in 1966 represented a 25% increase, the jump to 20¢ represented a 33% increase. With these and subsequent increases, the format remained virtually unchanged.

Silver Age Fun Facts compiled by
Rob Reardon

SUPERGIRL

AS WE ALL KNOW, SUPERMAN ARRIVED ON EARTH IN A SPACE ROCKET LONG AGO, WHEN HE WAS SUPERBOY. THE MAN OF STEEL HAS ALWAYS THOUGHT HE WAS THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF THE TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE THAT DESTROYED HIS HOME WORLD, KRYPTON! BUT NOT HIS MANY STRANGE FRIENDS! AND THE HAPPIEST EVENT IN SUPERMAN'S LONELY LIFE OCCURS ONE DAY, WHICH WILL ASTOUND AND DELIGHT ALL FANS OF SUPERMAN TOO! FOR THIS IS NOT AN ORDINARY TALE OF SUPERMAN, BUT THE LANDING OF A NEW MEMBER OF OUR "SUPER FAMILY" SO, WITHOUT FURTHER ADD, WE TAKE PLEASURE IN INTRODUCING...

THE SUPERGIRL from KRYPTON!

GREAT GUNS! I SEEM TO SEE A YOUNGSTER PLAYING DRESS-UP IN A SUPER-COSTUME! IT... UN... MUST BE AN ILLUSION!

LOOK, ALAN, SUPERMAN! IT'S ME... SUPERGIRL! AND I'M REAL!

ONE DAY IN METROPOLIS WHERE CLARK KENT, WHO IS SECRETLY SUPERMAN, WORKS AS A REPORTER FOR THE DAILY PLANET...

MY SUPER-HEARING PICKED UP A NOISY SOUND FAR OUT OF TOWN! I'LL CHECK WHAT IT IS WITH MY TELESCOPIC VISION!

GREAT GUNS! A SUICIDE-HORRIBLE IS ABOUT TO CRASH! THERE'S A HUMAN PASSENGER IN IT! THIS IS A JOB FOR SUPERMAN!

RRRRRR
RRRRRR
RRRRRR

SMITH! CLASH SMITH HAS OTHER BUSINESS TO REVEAL HIS OTHER DYNAMIC COSTUME!

DESPITE HIS SUPER-SPEED, THE MAN OF STEEL IS TOO LATE!

(LITTLE NOBODY ELSE IS IN THE OFFICE AT THE MOMENT! BUT HAVE I TIME TO REACH THE ROCKET? IT'LL SAUGH IN SECONDS!)



IT... IT CAME AT GREATER SPEED THAN ANY ROCKET KNOWN ON EARTH BEFORE! IN FACT, IT REMINDS ME OF THE ROCKET THAT BROUGHT ME TO EARTH THIS SAME WAY WHEN I WAS SUPERBABY YEARS AGO!

I SURVIVED MY CRASH BECAUSE I CAME FROM KRYPTON, A WORLD OF SUPER-QUANTITY! THAT GAVE ME SUPER-POWERS AND INVULNERABILITY! IN EARTH'S LEBERED GRANTATION! BUT WHOEVER WAS IN THIS ROCKET WON'T COME OUT ALIVE!



YOU'RE DUE FOR A SUPER-SHOCK, SUPERMAN!

DON'T WORRY, SUPERMAN! I'M ALIVE WITHOUT A SCRATCH!

GARRET SCOTT, A YOUNG GIRL UNHARMED! BUT... BUT THAT MEANS YOU'RE INVULNERABLE LIKE ME!



WHY NOT, SUPERMAN? I'M ALSO FROM THE PLANET KRYPTON!

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I WAS THE ONLY SURVIVOR WHEN KRYPTON EXPLODED! LONG AGO! BESIDES, YOU WEREN'T EVEN BORN AT THE TIME!



TO ADD TO THE MYSTERY, WHY ARE YOU WEARING A SUPER-COSTUME LIKE MINE? HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME? HOW CAN YOU SPEAK THE EARTH LANGUAGE SO WELL? AND... AND...??

DAFFLED, SUPERMAN! LET ME TELL YOU MY STORY AS MY PARENTS TOLD IT TO ME! WHEN KRYPTON BLEW UP, YOU WERE NOT THE ONLY ONE TO ESCAPE ALIVE!





"OH SHED LOCK, A LARGE CHUNK OF THE PLANET HAS HURLED AWAY INTO SPACE, WITH PEOPLE ON IT..."

"OUR EFFORT OF HOMES IS BEING PLUNGED INTO SPACE, SHOWS US FROM THE CONCLUSION THAT NIPED OUT ALL OTHERS!"



"AROUND THE PITIFUL FEW SURVIVORS WAS A SCIENTIST, ZOR-EL..."

"FORTUNATELY, A LARGE RUBBLE OF AIR CAME ALONG WITH THE CHUNK! ALSO, THIS FOOD MACHINE IS STILL WORKING! WE CAN STAY ALIVE INDEFINITELY!"



"BUT THEIR JOY WAS SHORT-LIVED! FOR, WHEN NIGHT FELL..."

"OH... I FEEL WEAK!"

"GREAT STARS! THE GROUND IS GLOWING GREEN! THE NUCLEAR EXPLOSION CONVERTED OUR SHATTERED PLANET INTO KRYPTONITE, AN ELEMENT WHOSE RADIATIONS CAN POISON AND DESTROY US IN TIME!"



"BUT WORSE, ZOR-EL HAD A TON OF SHEET METAL IN HIS LAB, AND..."

"THAT'S LEAD, WHICH STOPS ALL RADIATIONS! COVER ALL THE GROUND AROUND OUR HOMES! IT WILL ALLOW US TO SURVIVE, SAFE FROM THE KRYPTONITE RAYS!"



"LIFE SETTLED DOWN FOR THE KRYPTON REMAINS AND, SOME YEARS LATER, ZOR-EL TOOK A WIFE AND A DAUGHTER WAS BORN TO THEM... ME!"

"IT'S TIME FOR KARA'S BOTTLE, DAD!"

"OUR CHILD CAN GROW UP SAFELY AS LONG AS THE LEADEN SHIELD UNDER OUR COMMUNITY WARDS OFF THOSE KRYPTONITE RADIATIONS!"



"BUT FATE PLAYED A CRUEL TRICK, WHEN I AND GROWN INTO ADULTHOOD..."

"AND THE HOUSE, KARRA! A METEOR FLOCK IS SMASHING HOLES IN THE LEADEN SHIELD, POLE-ING KRYPTONITE RADIATIONS! WE ARE ALL DOOMED... LOOK!"

"DESPERATELY, MY FATHER RACED AS FAST TIME IN HIS LAB, CONSTRUCTING A SPACE ROCKET!"



"WE HAVE A MONTH BEFORE KRYPTONITE RADIATIONS SLOWLY POISON THE AIR! BUT BEFORE THAT FATAL HOUR, THIS ROCKET WILL SEND OUR DAUGHTER TO ANOTHER WORLD!"

BUT WHICH WORLD? I'LL USE THE SUPER-SPACE TELESCOPE TO FIND SOME CIVILIZED WORLD WHERE KARA CAN GROW UP SAFELY!



"EXAMINING MANY LIGHTS, MY MOTHER SPOT A STARTLING PHENOMENON ON ONE PARTICULAR WORLD..."



LOOK, MOTHER! WHO IS THAT FLYING MAN?

"I... I DON'T KNOW, DEAR! BUT THAT IS A CIVILIZED WORLD! I'LL PICK UP THEIR BROADCASTS WITH OUR SPACE RADIO, AND DECODE THEIR LANGUAGE!"

"IT WAS EARTH, OF COURSE, AND AFTER LEARNING THEIR LANGUAGE, MY MOTHER HEARD A PROGRAM REGARDING THEIR MOST FAMOUS HERO!"



THE CITY OF METROPOLIS AND TRULY TODAY TO SUPER-MAN AND ORIGINALLY CAME FROM THE PLANET KRYPTON! HE GAINED HIS SUPER-POWER IN EARTH'S LONELY SOLARITY!

THEN YOU TOO WOULD HAVE SUPER-POWERS ON EARTH, KARA! WE'LL SEND YOU THERE TO MEET SUPERMAN, WHO IS ONE OF OUR PEOPLE!

"MY MOTHER ALSO MADE ME A SPECIAL COSTUME..."



"I'LL MAKE IT LIKE SUPERMAN'S BUT SO WELL KNOW YOU FOR A KRYPTON GIRL! I CAN CUT AND SEN IT MORE, BUT ON EARTH IT WILL BECOME INDESTRUCTIBLE SUPER-CLOTH!"

THE SPACE ROCKET IS FINISHED, TOO! HURRY! THE KRYPTONITE RADIATIONS ARE POLLING THE AIR LIKE POISON!

"BARELY IN TIME, I WAS SHOT FREE OF MY DOOMED PEOPLE!"



WE HAVE LAUNCHED THE ROCKET FOR EARTH! FAREWELL, KARA... KARA...

MY FATHER... MOTHER... ALL THE PEOPLE ARE DYING! I'M AN ORPHAN OF SPACE NOW... I SORRY!

AS THE TRAGIC STORY OF **KARA**, THE GIRL FROM KRYPTON, ENDS...



THIS IS PERHAPS THE HAPPIEST MOMENT IN SUPERMAN'S LIFE, TO FIND HE HAS A LONG-LOST LIVING RELATIVE FROM HIS NATIVE WORLD!



YOU'LL NEED A SECRET IDENTITY TOO, OF COURSE! BUT HERE AND I'LL BRING BACK EARTHLY CLOTHES FOR YOU! AND I HAVE AN IDEA HOW TO DISGUISE YOU PERFECTLY!



WHEN SUPERMAN RETURNS FROM A VISIT TO SHOPS IN METROPOLIS...

THERE! THAT WAS OF FINE MAKEUP YOU LOOK LIKE A DIFFERENT GIRL ENTIRELY! WHO WAS BORN ON EARTH! NOW WE'LL REGISTER YOU IN THE ORPHANAGE!

WHILE YOU WERE GONE, I USED MY SUPER-HEARING AND HEARD MANY EARTH-GIRLS' NAMES! I THOUGHT OF A GOOD ONE FOR MYSELF...



LINDA LEE! HOW'S THAT?

ER... IS GOOD AS ANY!

LINDA LANG WAS MY GOOD FRIEND WHEN I WAS SUPERBOY, AND LINDA LANG REPLACED HER WHEN I BECAME SUPERMAN! I WANT MY DEAREST CONFIDENT, SHE PICKED THE SAME INITIALS... *h-h-h!*



AS SUPERMAN BRINGS LINDA (SUPERGIRL) LEE INTO THE ORPHANAGE...

THIS POOR GIRL... SHE LOST HER PARENTS IN A BIG DISASTER THAT WIPE OUT HER WHOLE COMMUNITY!

WHICH IS TRUE ABOUT HER ADOPTION PARENTS, BUT THE HEADMASTER WILL THINK I MEAN SOME TOWN OF ORPHANS THAT DESTROYED A TOWN ON EARTH!



YOU'LL HAVE A GOOD HOME HERE, MY DEAR! MISS HART, THE HEADMISTRESS, IS LIKE A MOTHER TO ALL THE ORPHAN CHILDREN! SHE WILL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM!

I SURE, IT'S TIME TO SAY GOOD-BYE, COULD BY SUPERMAN!



AS THE SUPER-CHILDREN SPEAK PRIVATELY FOR A MOMENT...

SOMEONE THE OUTSIDE WORLD WILL HEAR OF YOU AS SUPERGIRL! BUT FOR A LONG TIME TO COME, YOU'LL LIVE HERE QUIETLY AS AN "ORDINARY" GIRL UNTIL YOU GET USED TO EARTHLY THINGS!

I UNDERSTAND, COUSIN SUPERMAN! I'LL KEEP MY PRESENCE ON EARTH A COMPLETE SECRET FROM EVERYONE FOR THE TIME BEING!



AFTER SUPERMAN LEAVES...

ER-- I'M SORRY, LINDA, BUT THE CAPTAINAGE IS OVERSCHEDULED AND THIS IS THE ONLY ROOM WE HAVE! I'LL HELP YOU TIDY IT UP.

NO, WISE HARTY I'LL DO IT MYSELF!



WHEN WE WATCHED THROUGH THE SUPER-TELESCOPE, MY MOTHER AND I SAW ALL OF SUPERMAN'S POWERS DISPLAYED! SUPER-BREATH IS HANDY, TOO, TO DUST OUT MY ROOM IN ONE BIG BLOW!



WHEN ALONE...

NO ONE WILL SEE ME USE MY SUPER-POWERS, WITH THE DOOR CLOSED! I'LL BEAT THE IRON LEGS OF MY OOT STRAIGHT! THAT PROVES I HAVE SUPER-STRENGTH TOO, JUST LIKE MY COUSIN SUPERMAN!



NOW THE HEAT OF MY X-RAY VISION WILL FUSE THIS CRACKED MIRROR SMOOTH AGAIN!



ALSO I CAN USE X-RAY VISION THROUGH THE WALLS TO SEE THE OTHER ORPHANS HERE! NONE I CAN MAKE FRIENDS WITH THEM ALL! THIS WILL BE MY HOME FROM NOW ON, ON THE PLANET EARTH!



LIGHT'S OUT, CHILDREN! TIME FOR BED! GOOD-NIGHT!

AWH... WHILE EVERYONE'S ASLEEP, IT'S MY CHANCE TO CHANGE TO SUPERGIRL, AND LOOK OVER MY NEW HOME TOWN! NOBODY WILL SEE ME IN THE DARK, SO I'M NOT DISOBEYING SUPERMAN!





SILVER AGE FUN FACTS

TO KNOW AND TELL!

• A major change in the production of letterpress comic books was the introduction of polymer plastic printing plates in the early 1970s. These replaced the old acid-etched zinc plates.

Silver Age Fun Facts compiled by Bob Rozakis



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Silver Age Fun Facts compiled by Bob Rossini



ACTION COMICS #252

BY KIM "HOWARD" JOHNSON

Asks any member of the general public to name a couple of super-heroes, and you'll probably receive a good assortment of answers.

If you ask that same non-super fan to name two female super-heroes, though, the same two will top the list every time.

Only Supergirl and Wonder Woman have achieved equal recognition with their most popular male counterparts. Wonder Woman made her first appearance in the early '40s, and it took over 17 years for another super-heroine to equal her popularity.

Admittedly, Supergirl had a few advantages over her competition, not the least of which included the cape and the big red "S" of the world's most popular super-hero. And, when *Karl Dan-El* crash-landed on the cover of *Action Comics* #252 in May of 1955, her famous cousin was there to greet her.

There were other female spinoffs of male super-heroes, the first notable example being Fawcett's *Mary Marvel*, but none of them have

come close to rivalling Supergirl's popularity. There have also been other Super-Family characters who appropriated her cousin's costume, a menagerie that included Krypto the Super-Dog (who preceded Supergirl), Comet the Super-Horse, Sprocket the Super-Cat (Supergirl's sometimes-superpowered pet), and Beppo the Super-Monkey. Hey, there was even a Super-Turtle long before Eekman and Laird, though he only appeared in a filler gag strip that (presumably) took place outside what we now call the DC Universe. Of course, Superboy ("The Adventures of Superman When He Was a Boy") had begun appearing in his own series several years earlier, and we were even treated to several stories featuring Superboy (the adventures of—well, you get the idea). By the early 1960s, that big red "S" was everywhere.

Despite the proliferation of capes and super-powers, Supergirl was a cut above the others. Perhaps it was her convoluted origin, maybe it was her secret identity and teenage lifestyle, or it could be that we pre-adolescent boys just liked seeing a cute blonde in the boots and cape (though, of course, today we're much too enlightened to entertain such a revealing sexist thought).

Although Karl's first appearance was in *Action* #252, Supergirl actually

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appeared on-officially the previous year, in *Supergirl* #223. The first chapter of a three-part story in which Jimmy Olsen gets three wishes from a magic totem sees him conjure up "The Girl of Steel" as a perfect mate for Supergirl. This Supergirl flies in love with him and saves him from death by Kryptonite before Jimmy causes her to be "drawn back to the mysterious limbo from which she came..." This Supergirl was a blonde with powers and a costume virtually identical with Kara's, and the story was evidently a trial balloon for an ongoing series with a brand-new character.

When Supergirl returned from this "mysterious limbo" in *Action Comics* #252, not only was she not in love with him, she had become his young cousin. As you will read in these pages, her origin only escaped the destruction of Krypton, and, with the aid of their frighteningly-high-power super-telescope, they discover cousin Kal on Earth. Her father delays launching her space rocket so her mother can finish making her a suit like Supergirl's. "So he'll know you for a Krypton girl!" (In case the flying and super-seeing isn't enough of a clue) and her rocket is launched "barely in time."

Supergirl's life on Earth allowed her to actually change and grow, a luxury not allowed her older cousin. She started out in Michelle Greinerage as Linda Lee, and Supergirl insisted her super identity remain a secret.

until he could train her in the use of her powers. In a memorable story, he revealed her existence to the world, and her alter ego was adopted and became Linda Danvers. In fact, she actually ended up with two sets of parents when her Kryptonian parents turned up alive and well one day. She graduated from high school and college, began her own career, and even joined the Legion of Super-Heroes before she met a hero and in *CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS* #7.

But, it all started in *ACTION COMICS* #252, an issue that also featured a lesser milestone, the

first appearance of Metello. Despite his death in this story, he would return to become one of Supergirl's regular foes, known as "the man with the Kryptonite Heart," founding out the package for a story starring the spunky-yet-sensitve COMICSURELLA, a startling example of DC's ongoing love affair with goniles. All in all, a very nice 1980s time capsule from Mort Weisinger.

Despite all the trimmings, though, the star of the show to this prosaicalcent thirty-something boy is still the cute blonde in the boots and cape. Long may she fly!

DC SILVER AGE CLASSICS

ACTION COMICS #252

- "THE MENACE OF METALLO" Written by Robert Bernstein
Art by Al Plastino
- "CONGO BILL DIES AT DAWN" Written by Robert Bernstein
Art by Howard Sherman
- "THE SUPERGIRL FROM KRYPTON" Written by Otto Binder
Art by Al Plastino

Original cover by Curt Swan and Stan Kaye

Original editor, *ACTION COMICS* #252, Mort Weisinger

Color reconstruction by Matt Webb

DC SILVER AGE CLASSICS logo and cover template designed by Brian Baines

DC SILVER AGE CLASSICS SERIES edited by Bob Kahan

SILVER AGE FUN FACTS

TO KNOW AND TELL!

- One of the early problems with the plastic plates was with very thin lines. The impact pressure created these lines to bend, resulting in straight lines printing as wiggly ones. (The most amusing I ever saw was the jet trail from a plane in the sky. The single straight line printed as a very wavy one, giving the impression that the passengers were getting quite a bumpy ride!)

Silver Age Fun Facts compiled by Bob Rozakis